SUBJECTS.

129. *Agricultural and Industrial exhibitions and cattle-shows.*

The same member finally requested—

that periodical agricultural and industrial exhibitions and cattle-shows might be held in important centres in the State and at the capital.

Dewan's reply.—Government are quite alive to the necessity for this. There was an idea of having an Industrial and Agricultural exhibition in connection with this meeting of the Assembly. The time, however, was insufficient and the idea had to be given up. Government will endeavour to carry out the idea.

130. *Reform in State charities.*

Mr. N. Atchuthan Tampi (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) requested that the distribution of meals in Oottupurahs might be strictly confined to *bona fide* travellers and the State charities might be regulated and wholesome laws enacted so as to put down mendicancy and vagrancy, 'consistently with economy to Government and the equitable adjustment of the interests of all classes of tax-payers'. He said that the working of the charity institutions was capable of considerable improvement. Those institutions were of ancient origin and should be maintained, so that the objects with which they were originally founded might be carried out without impairment. Though the Oottupurahs were primarily intended for the relief of the poor and way-worn traveller, they had come to be regarded as feeding-houses for the poor of a resident population. He then observed that it could not be said that Government was indifferent to the state of things and read out a Malayalam Circular, No. 2141, dated 19th Mithunam 1030 M. E. (July, 1855) which enjoined that meals should be given only to *bona fide* travellers and specially prohibited the supply of meals or provisions to Government servants during their tours. He said that the existing condition of things showed that the circular had been practically a dead letter and requested that Government might, in the interests of the tax-payer, confine the institution to its original object. He also observed that there was great laxity in the management of the other State charities—conjee-houses, water-pandals and feeding of cows with green grass—and requested that Government might be pleased to issue strict orders that the charities be properly performed.

Mr. Krishnan Pandala (Member, Quilon Taluk) in supporting the request said that peculation and misappropriation were so rife in the Oottupurahs that nothing was left for the weary traveller. That made it imperative that the charities should be scrutinized and properly administered both in the interests of revenue and of those for whom the benefactions were originally founded.

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